

# CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT, INC.

*Update*



## Congressman Simmons speaks out against indecent TV programming

**By Rob Simmons**

Connecticut Congressman,  
2nd District

*Dear Friends:*

Every year millions of families eagerly plan one Sunday around one event – the Super Bowl. Football is supposed to be a celebration of athletic prowess and teamwork. The Super Bowl is where the best of the best go head to head. Unfortunately, this year's Super Bowl will not be remembered by the incredible game between the New England Patriots and the Carolina Panthers. The contest on the field was overshadowed by Janet Jackson's right breast, which was exposed during the halftime 'entertainment' when singer Justin Timberlake ripped off part of Ms. Jackson's costume.

By hiring MTV to promote the half time show, CBS pushed the envelope on sexually explicit programming in primetime TV to an all-

time low. In response I sent a letter to the Federal Communications Commission requesting a full investigation.

In my letter to FCC Chairman Michael Powell, I wrote, "I strongly urge you to initiate an FCC investigation to determine whether or not the culminating event to the performance was planned and known about by top MTV and CBS officials. Additionally, I ask that you use this unfortunate event to demonstrate to the networks that the FCC will not tolerate any such further displays by levying and enforcing collection of the highest possible fines on CBS and MTV."

I do not believe that the FCC has done enough to shield the public from indecent programming. In response, I am a cosponsoring legislation to raise the \$27,500 maximum fine for indecent programming to \$275,000. A \$27,500 fine is no deterrent for wealthy corporations that assault standards and promote trash on the airwaves.

Given the fact that the performers are seasoned professionals it is difficult to accept that Ms. Jackson's exposure was, as Justin Timberlake explained it, a "wardrobe malfunction." Also, consider that MTV bragged about the occurrence on its web site, observing that, "Jaws across the country hit the carpet at exactly the same time ... a kinky finale that rocked the Super Bowl to its core."

If the incident had been a mistake the public would have received an apology.

The Super Bowl is about bump and run, not bump and grind. It is a sports spectacular that draws members of families together and they should not be subjected to the low taste of the network that brought the world 'Jackass.'

*Sincerely,  
Rob Simmons  
Member of Congress  
Second District, Connecticut*



Congressman Rob Simmons